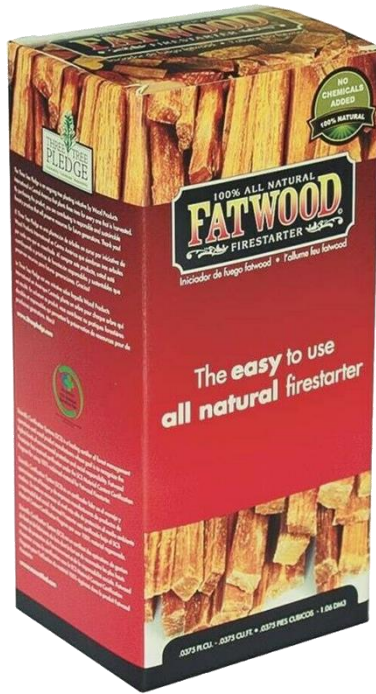


Fatwood

By Steven Dykeman

Be safe
Have fun
Better yourself



Fatwood is a natural occurring wood which has a very high resin content. You can purchase a box of this wood and use it at home or at camp. Throw a couple of sticks in your pack for emergency use. Since this material can be found in nature, it makes for a valuable fire starter that you need to be familiar with. It burns very strong and hot since it is highly concentrated with resin.

Knowing how to find this wood in nature and perfecting the skill of using it can save your life.



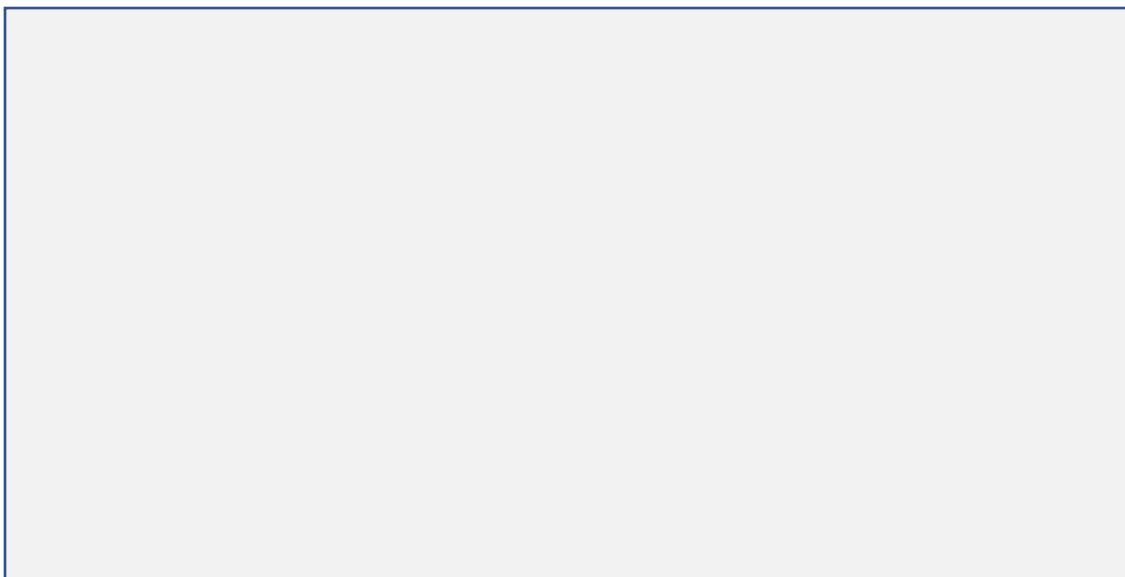
The easiest way to find fatwood in the bush, is to find pine knots near an old fallen tree. The picture to the right shows pine knots that I found. The wood surrounding the pine knots was all rotted, but the rot resistant fatwood in the pine knots has not decayed. Take an axe or saw to cut the pine knots to gain access the fatwood inside.

A stick of this fatwood straight out of the box can be lit directly from a match or a lighter, but it is a bit easier if you whittle off some shavings. A pile of shaving can easily be lit from a match or lighter and then larger sticks will catch flame by placing them over the burning shavings. The shavings to the far right in the picture below are great for this purpose.



The picture shows various grades of fineness. If all you have is a ferro rod, no worry. Most effective is to use the size second from the left combined with the size at the far right. Throw a nice shower of sparks onto the fine shavings to light the larger ones. Lay a couple of fatwood sticks over the top using something to prop them up to avoid smothering the fire, and you're on your way.

This same technique of producing fine shavings can be used with most woods, however, fatwood is ideal. Practice making the fine shavings and lighting them with a spark. Do not assume this is easy; you must practice. Fine sawdust does not work well. Practice lighting various types of shavings to find what works. Learning the use of wood is most valuable since wood is readily available almost anywhere. The fatwood is also resistant to water and can most often be found dry inside a pine knot



About the author:

Steve Dykeman is an experienced outdoorsman and survivalist. He has written many articles and produced many videos on subjects relating to outdoors and survival. He has been a course director and instructor to both youth and adults. He has also been a technical consultant to manufacturing companies relating to outdoor gear. He has over 40 years of experience working with space and defense related electronics. He brings his advanced technical abilities to the outdoors, exposing the many myths and fallacies.

In recent days he is educating people to survive into our uncertain future.

